

Message Text

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FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY: FROM SEPTEMBER 2 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5, THE MOROCCAN PRESS BOTH ARABIC AND FRENCH HAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE TO THE FORTHCOMING CAMP DAVID MEETING. CITING WIRESERVICE SOURCES, THE REPORTS HAVE FOCUSED LARGELY ON THE HISTORY OF THE PEACE PROCESS INITIATED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND ON THE QUESTION OF UNITED STATES-MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. COMMENTARIES AND EDITORIALS HAVE STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, THE INTRANSIGENCE OF ISRAEL, THE "PESSIMISM OF THE PALESTIAN LEADERSHIP," THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND THE LARGER CIRITICAL AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. NO MOROCCAN CORRESPONDENT IS IN THE UNITED STATES TO COVER THE SUMMIT.

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3. ARABIC AND FRENCH NEWSPAPERS HAVE USED WIRE-SERVICE REPORTS FROM AFP AND REUTERS AS WELL AS FROM THE SYRIAN NEWSPAPER TASHRIN AND LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE TO DESCRIBE THE URGENCY OF THE SUMMIT MEETING AND THE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES FACING THE PARTICIPANTS. ONE SUCH ARTICLE FROM AFP ENTITLED

"RECONCILING THE IRRECONCILABLE" WAS PRINTED IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT AL MAGHRIB OF SEPTEMBER 5. IT EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND FOR THE RECONGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

4. THE SAME NEWSPAPER IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 4 PROVIDES A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE AND CONCLUDES SOMBERLY THAT "BECAUSE CERTAIN NUANCES (ESPECIALLY THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE) HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED..... PEACE AGAIN WILL BE DENIED ITS CHANCE." REPEATING THE SAME THEME IN THE SAME PAPER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR FARIDA MOHA CLAIMS CAMP DAVID'S ONE GLARING FAULT IS THE ABSENCE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. ON SEPTEMBER 3, JUNIOR RANKING EDITOR NAJIB BENCHERIF AGAIN IN AL MAGHRIB DEPICTS THE CONFERENCES AS "THE LAST ROUND" WITH EGYPT'S GREATEST HOPE BEING ACTIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCEEDING. IF THIS DOES NOT OCCUR, HE SEES "TWO EVENTUALITIES: RETURN TO GENEVA OR WAR."

5. THE ARABIC DAILY AL MITHAQ, PRO-GOVERNMENT IN EDITORIAL POLICY, PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 5 A LONG COMMENTARY ON A PROBABLE AMERICAN COURSE OF ACTION AT THE SUMMIT. TO COUNTERBALANCE GROWING SOVIET UNCLASSIFIED

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INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE UNITED STATES, IT CLAIMS, WILL PLAY A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE AT CAMP DAVID TO ASSUAGE MODERATE ARAB STATES. THE ISTIQ-LALI PAPER AL ALAM ON SEPTEMBER 3 RELYING ON UNIDENTIFIED NEWS SOURCES QUOTED PRESIDENT SADAT AS VIEWING "CAMP DAVID AS THE LAST CHANCE FOR PEACE IN THE AREA." THE SOCIALIST DAILY AL MUHARRIR CHARACTERIZED BOTH MR. BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT AS INFLEXIBLE IN THEIR POSITIONS THUS REQUIRING FOR COMPROMISE EXTRAORDINARY NEGOTIATING SKILL ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER.LISLE

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